

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend?

Plainview 6-16-09

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☐ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☒ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☒ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety

L-001-001

☒ Other: undetermined long-term health problems for the young and infirm.

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

Need
Need not "nice to have" "will want in future"
Need "want a "back-up" line"

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

L-001-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

L-001-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to wildlife will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- ☒ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

Our property is one of the few voluntary wildlife refuges in Farmington Township. We even have the "Short-Tailed Weasel" and they are rare. We also have no hunting or trapping. Long-term ill effects on the wildlife may be detrimental to some of these species.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

biological
esthetical
Safety
getting screwed out of my land. When you decide I have no say over my own land. God Bless America as the government sees fit to change it. "Condemned for the public good" - we hear it from developers all the time. So they can line their pockets. Now you want to kill my wildlife - rare and common - possibly cause birth defects or various health issues in my family.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

L-001-003

Why is it needed? Layman's language.

L-001-004

For studies are paid for by you and where for project what you want collected.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Sharon Boyce

Representing (Optional): Farmington Township.

Mailing Address: 10231 50th Ave - W.E.

City: Elgin State: IL Zip Code: 60120

Daytime Phone (Optional):

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton- Rochester- La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

L-001-003

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

L-001-004

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

L-001-005

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to wildlife as well as human and livestock health and safety will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

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☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Wanna n in 90

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☐ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☐ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☒ Radio or television interference
- ☒ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

L-002-001

Affect on property values present & future

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

L-002-001

Your comment has been noted. Socioeconomic impacts to property values affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture

☒ Residential

☒ Conservation Easement

☐ Commercial

☐ Industrial

☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

If the need exists then the utilities would be required to pay fair value for present & future loss.

L-002-002

Instead of a single ROW payments make them lease it annually and evaluate lease mts with comps that were not developed by these methodologies

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: JOEL HELMBERGER

Representing (Optional): NEW MARKET TOWNSHIP

Mailing Address: 2431 DAKOTA AV LAKEVILLE, MN

City: LAKEVILLE State: MN.

Zip Code: 55042

Daytime Phone (Optional): 651-210-9195

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

L-002-002

Your comment has been noted. RUS anticipates that the CapX2020 Utilities would provide compensation in the form of a one-time easement payment to property owners who host transmission lines. Property owners would retain ownership of the land and may continue to use the land around transmission structures. RUS anticipates that the CapX2020 Utilities would work with property owners to negotiate easement payments after the permitting process.

COMMENT FORM

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☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? All in area of Farmington

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☐ Project Purpose and Need
- ☐ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☐ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☐ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☐ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

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L-003-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- ☐ Agriculture ☐ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

yes

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Eugene J. Miller
Representing (Optional): Dairyland - Peoples + Highland Twp
Mailing Address: 60320 230 Ave
City: The Plains State: Minnesota Zip Code: 55945
Daytime Phone (Optional): _____

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

Representative:

Bliss

CapX2020

Delivering electricity you can rely on

Input Form

Name:

Everett Rolting

Address:

Warren Twp.

Telephone:

Email:

Chairman

Date:

Meeting location:

no current line taking

Check one:

☐ Landowner

☐ Elected Official

☐ Agency

☐ City/County Staff

☐ Other:

Comments:

I-90 - no farm land
impacts
limits impacts
from noise
follows rd + + line
conider

L-004-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

L-004-001

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

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☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? June 17, 2009 in Waramingo

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

☐ Project Purpose and Need

☐ Visual / Aesthetic resources

☒ Proximity to residences

☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)

☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)

☐ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)

☐ Historic and cultural sites

☐ Radio or television interference

☐ Noise

☐ Health and safety

☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

See enclosed letter.

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If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- ☐ Agriculture ☐ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

My property is not located within the project corridors.
I am only interested in what's best for Goodhue
County.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

See enclosed letter.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

It was. I have no problems with the project itself, I just want to make sure that it is sited properly.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Dan Rechtzigel

Representing (Optional): Goodhue County

Mailing Address: 1140 2nd St. E.

City: Kenyon State: MN Zip Code: 55946

Daytime Phone (Optional): (507) 789-5877

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.



Dan Rechtzigel
County Commissioner
Goodhue County

1140 2nd Street E.
Kenyon, MN 55946
(507) 789 - 5877

June 24, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

L-005-002 | This letter is being sent to inform all interested parties that I do not support the efforts of XCEL Energy to construct new transmission lines along Minnesota State Highways 56 and 60 in Goodhue County as part of the CapX 2020 project. I have attended many meetings regarding this project and have shared my concerns with project representatives. After learning about all of the proposed options that XCEL is considering, it makes clear sense to me that the transmission lines should run along US Highway 52.

L-005-003 | In reviewing the maps provided at the June 17, 2009 meeting in Wanamingo, one can clearly see the impact these transmission lines will have on residents living along Highway 56 and Highway 60. Most homes were built close to the highway, so for many residents these new lines equate to a new 170-foot tall structure located literally in their back yard. The homes located along US Highway 52 were built farther back from the highway, and all residents who bought homes along this sector bought them knowing that both heavy traffic and transmission lines would occupy many portions of the highway. The decision to construct the transmission lines along Highway 52 will have a far less impact on the topography of Goodhue County since current lines already exist. XCEL would have to construct new lines along Highways 56 and 60, causing great hardship and disruption to the residents living there.

L-005-004 | Goodhue County is seeing growth in industrial and commercially zoned areas along Highway 52. The Highway 52 corridor will continue to grow and continue to attract more industrial and commercial activity. These businesses will demand vast amounts of electricity that will be easily provided by the transmission lines running along the corridor. By contrast, the Kenyon-Dennison region of Goodhue County has not seen substantial increases in residential, industrial, or commercial activity. Building these lines along Highways 56 and 60 seems like a lost opportunity. Why not build along the corridor that will clearly demand more energy as Highway 52 transitions from a four-lane highway into a limited-access freeway? Why build in the very rural areas of Goodhue County that will continue to remain rural for decades to come?

L-005-001

In Goodhue County we are proud of maintaining our agricultural heritage. On a county level, we have implemented a comprehensive land-use plan to help us achieve planning and zoning goals for the future. We have identified areas of Goodhue County that will be growth areas, and areas that we will work hard to maintain as agricultural. As a member of both the Goodhue County Planning Advisory Commission and the Goodhue County Board of Commissioners, I have spent countless hours working towards preserving the integrity of our comprehensive plan. Building these lines along Highway 52 fits in with our plan. The other option does not.

I urge you to select Highway 52 as your primary choice for the construction of the CapX 2020 transmission lines. The arguments listed above provide the foundation for making this decision based on sound logic and reasoning. Many people will contact you with emotional pleas to build it in one place or another. If we remove emotion from the argument, the Highway 52 option becomes the clear and obvious choice. I hope that you respect my role as a commissioner in working towards achieving the land use goals outlined in our comprehensive plan. I ask you to consider the impact these lines will have on our farmers in Warsaw, Holden, Kenyon, Wanamingo, Cherry Grove, Roscoe, and Minneola Townships whose ability to farm will be severely disrupted if these lines are forced to go over their property instead of in the road right-of-way. And I ask you to consider the residents living along Highways 56 and 60 who live so close to the road right-of-way that their lives will be severely disrupted if the lines are built along the highway. Finally, I ask you to consider the opportunity that Highway 52 provides. With a wide road right-of-way and remarkable potential for future industrial and commercial growth, the Highway 52 corridor is the only sensible option.

I appreciate your efforts to solicit feedback from the people who will be impacted by your decision, and I ask that you focus on making a decision that will be good for both XCEL Energy and Goodhue County.

Sincerely,



Dan Rechtzigel, Commissioner
Goodhue County Board

GOODHUE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RON ALLEN
1st District
1713 Sievert
Red Wing, MN 55066

RICHARD A. SAMUELSON
2nd District
11200 Olga Street Way
Cannon Falls, MN 55009

DAN RECHTZIGEL
3rd District
1140 2nd Street E.
Kenyon, MN 55946

JIM BRYANT
4th District
26390 Co. 21 Blvd.
Red Wing, MN 55066

TED SEIFERT
5th District
521 17th Street
Red Wing, MN 55066

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

L-005-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

Potential impacts to land use will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement which will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

L-005-002

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response L-005-001.

L-005-003

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response L-005-001.

L-005-004

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response L-005-001.

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☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? WANNAMINGO - CANNON FALLS

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☐ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☐ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☐ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☒ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☒ Other: INHIBITING COMMERCIAL GROWTH

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

L-006-001 THE CITY OF HAMPTON WOULD LIKE THE PROPOSED LINE
TO MOVE TO THE EASTERN CITY LIMIT BOUNDARY, SO
THE EXISTING AND FUTURE COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENTS
WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED

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L-006-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- ☐ Agriculture ☐ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

YES

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Alarain REINARDY

Representing (Optional): CITY OF HAMPTON

Mailing Address: Box 96

City: Hampton State: MN Zip Code: 55031

Daytime Phone (Optional): 651-260-4011

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

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☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? St. Charles

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☐ Project Purpose and Need
- ☐ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☐ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☒ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

L-007-004 As chairman of Warner township I am requesting that if you have to go through our township you use the southern option along I-90. The traffic noise from I-90 would drown out the noise from the power line. You already have an easement there from road and existing power line. The northern option along Highway 25 has five large dairy operations extremely close to the proposed route in our township. (next page)

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If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- ☐ Agriculture ☐ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

continued from front page
The northern option does not follow any property lines and would go through the middle of every farm. This is taking ag land out of production and creating a hardship. For several reasons I am requesting that you no longer consider the option along Highway 25 and go with the one along I-90 if you have to go through Warren township. Thank you

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

I believe we should put the line through wood land and wet lands where ever possible to save ag land. we can never replace the ag land if it is taken out of production. We all have to eat.

L-007-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

L-007-002

We need more information on how the line would affect somatic cell and herd health when going close to a dairy.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Everett Rolting
 Representing (Optional): Warren Township-chain Winona county
 Mailing Address: 25409 Almon Dr.
 City: Winona State: Mn Zip Code: 55987
 Daytime Phone (Optional): 507-523-3601

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

L-007-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to livestock health and safety will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

L-007-003

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response L-007-001.

L-007-004

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response L-007-001.

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☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Wanamingo

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☒ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☒ Radio or television interference
- ☒ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

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If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture ☐ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

Property location: Sec. 27 Holden Township Goodhue County.
The south west area of Holden township has some of the best farmland in Goodhue County. Small farmers like myself have all we can do to hold onto the small acreages (80-160+) that we have to raise enough feed for our dairy herds. I am concerned about stray voltage, etc on the 2 sites in Sections 31+27 where our family has dairy herds.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

This area has always been an area of small family farms - some of which have been in the family since the 1850's. People have worked hard to maintain this "neighborhood" feeling and the land that they farm. As township officials we consider very carefully each land use sitting that will affect the people living in the area. If you were to place this line mid-section, as proposed, you would come quite close to a number of farm sites and feed lots. Because this land is so extensively rowcrops, the fence lines are the only areas of wildlife habitat that remain - I would hate to see the little bit we have left destroyed for a power line. The established Hwy 52 corridor seems like a much better route for this project.

L-008-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to stray voltage will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

L-008-002

Your letter/comment card has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process along with potential impacts to wildlife will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

L-008-003

From the information that I have, I'm not sure there is a need for this project - through conservation of energy and alternative power sources this project may not be necessary.

L-008-004

I find the format of your scoping meetings very difficult to "wade" through - I felt like I was walking through a maze with no way out - We really need some formal presentation of information - with a question and answer period. I realize that could go on into the night, but we would be happy with a time limit. Please consider a change.

L-008-005

Also more information to affected property owners would be good - throwing out all these possible routes confuses people.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Barbara St John

Representing (Optional): Holden Township

Mailing Address: 44866 40th Ave.

City: Kenyon

State: MN

Zip Code: 55946

Daytime Phone (Optional): 507-789-5553

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

L-008-003

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

L-008-004

The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities are striving to provide the most up to date information in a timely manner. Project information is updated regularly on the project website, www.capx2020.com.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

L-008-005

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response L-008-004.

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 11:12 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW:

-----Original Message-----

From: dorannorton@charter.net [mailto:dorannorton@charter.net]
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2009 5:14 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject:

Stephanie A. Strength
Environmental Protection Specialist/RD
1400 Independence Ave. SW Room # 2244
Washington, DC 20250-1571

Please oppose forcing my township to pay for the CapX2020 ultra high voltage power line projects, including the La Crosse Project.

- L-009-001** | This line will cause environmental harm in scenic corridors and the loss of prime agricultural land.
- L-009-002** | You should consider this project with the other CapX2020 power lines which seem to be about bringing Dakota coal power to Wisconsin and Illinois.
- L-009-004** | My neighbors are committed to local generation of power and to conservation. I attended a local intergovernmental meeting last night, and a CAPX representative spoke. It sounds like the power companies are boxed into solutions which are 'cheapest' without considering the true cost of these solutions to protected natural resources.
- L-009-003** | We can solve local reliability issues locally. We don't need Dakota coal carbon footprints all over Minnesota.
- It sounds like some power companies are backing out of this project and so are looking to me to pay for a project I don't want. Please - don't make my neighbors pay for this project through the USDA Rural Utilities Service.
- Thanks for considering my request,
- Kathleen Doran-Norton
Bridgewater Township board of supervisors

L-009-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line as well as agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

L-009-002

Your comment has been noted.

While the CapX2020 projects involve four independent projects being developed in a similar time frame with some of the same of utilities participating, the Purpose and Need for the CapX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV Project was developed and proven independently of the other CapX2020 projects. The Alternative Evaluation Study addresses project Purpose and Need and is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>, which has been approved by the RUS. Purpose and Need will also be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

L-009-003

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

L-009-004

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response L-009-003.

L-010-001 |
L-010-002 |

Kessler, Ellen

From: Jeff Bluske [bluske.jeff@co.la-crosse.wi.us]
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2009 8:32 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Cc: Mike Weibel; David Lange; Charlie Handy; Tom Faella
Subject: FW: Court decision

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Stephanie Strength-

Sorry I have not responded with concerns or advice on the CapX 2020 project yet, but I have been waiting for the courts decision summarized below in Dane County, Wisconsin. In light of this decision, why should any local unit of government participate at all, other than to know there is going to be some new lines stretched across their municipality? I'm sure local property owners don't have the same clout as the National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service or even the Army Corps to say, you aren't going to cross my property? So why all the meetings? The significant impacts we would have are those found in shoreland districts, wetlands and impacts to present and future developments for setbacks from the high voltage lines and easements.

JH Bluske
Director - Zoning, Planning & Land Information Department
Administrative Center
400 4th ST N - Room 3170
LaCrosse, WI 54601
phone: 608-785-9724
cell: 608-792-1167
email: bluske.jeff@co.la-crosse.wi.us
county homepage: www.co.la-crosse.wi.us/

From: Jeff Bluske
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2009 8:53 AM
To: Gregg Stangl; Kurt Pederson; Mary Jo Webster; Annette Kirchhoff; Chad Vandenlangenberg; Charlie Handy; Dan Leis; Jackie Eastwood; Jeff Bluske; Jonathan Kaatz; Mike Weibel; Nathan Sampson; Pamela Hollnagel; Ron Roth; Tom Faella
Cc: David Lange
Subject: FW: Court decision

See the courts reply to Dane Countys order for erosion control. I'll have to check to see if this included any zoning needed.

JH Bluske
Director - Zoning, Planning & Land Information Department
Administrative Center
400 4th ST N - Room 3170
LaCrosse, WI 54601
phone: 608-785-9724
cell: 608-792-1167
email: bluske.jeff@co.la-crosse.wi.us

L-010-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to wetlands will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

L-010-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to social and economic resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

county homepage: www.co.la-crosse.wi.us/

From: Dustin Grant [mailto:dgrant@co.marquette.wi.us]
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2009 8:34 AM
To: vernonctyzoning@vernoncounty.org; aelliott@co.monroe.wi.us; ashute@co.green-lake.wi.us;
Jeff Bluske; brazzals@co.portage.wi.us; czibung@co.green-lake.wi.us; Pat Danielson;
ddonnelly@co.juneau.wi.us; dgreuel@co.wood.wi.us; Jeff Brewbaker; jkrueger@co.adams.wi.us;
medwards@co.adams.wi.us; mark.courthouse@co.waushara.wi.us; Mike.Stapleton@co.columbia.wi.us;
mkirkman@co.green-lake.wi.us; msorenson@co.green-lake.wi.us; pmclaughlin@co.adams.wi.us;
TERRI.COURTHOUSE@co.waushara.wi.us; terry.schmidt@co.jackson.wi.us;
tonofrey@co.marquette.wi.us; Mike Weibel
Subject: Court decision

APPEALS COURT BLOCKS DANE COUNTY'S ATTEMPT TO HAVE ATC APPLY FOR PERMITS<<http://www.wicourts.gov/ca/opinion/DisplayDocument.pdf?content=pdf&seqNo=38091>>. The District IV Court of Appeals ruled today Dane County cannot force American Transmission Co. to apply for local permits before proceeding with construction of high-voltage transmission lines for which the Public Service Commission has given its approval. The appellate decision affirmed a Dane County circuit court which previously blocked the county's attempts.

"We conclude that in Wis. Stat. s. 196.491(3)(i) the legislature has expressly withdrawn the power of municipalities to act, once the PSC has issued a certificate of public convenience and necessity, on any matter that the PSC has address or could have addressed in that administrative proceeding," the court said. "We also conclude that the local power that is withdrawn by the statute includes requiring the application for local permits of the type that are in dispute in this case."

After the first of three PSC permits were issued, Dane County argued construction could not begin until ATC obtained a shoreland erosion control permit, wetland zoning permit and a general erosion control permit under county ordinances. ATC argued it did not need to apply for the permits because the county permit process would "inhibit" the construction within the meaning of the statutes. The courts agreed.

Also,
Senate Commerce, Utilities, Energy & Rail, 2 pm, Tue, Aug 4, 300-SE
Executive Session on
SB-185<<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2009/data/SB185hst.html>>. Wind Energy (Plale) Regulation of wind energy systems.

Cummings, Matt

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2009 10:27 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss
Cc: Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: CAPX2020 Comments from City of Pine Island
Attachments: FED Review Comment Letter _07-09.doc; FUTURE LAND USE.pdf; Resolution09-003_CAPX2020_Jan09.jpg

FYI

From: Pine Island EDA [mailto:pieda@pitel.net]
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2009 10:02 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CAPX2020 Comments from City of Pine Island

August 10, 2009

Stephanie A. Strength
Environmental Protection Specialist/RD
1400 Independence Ave. SW Room # 2244
Washington, DC 20250-1571
(202) 720-0468

Stephanie,

Thank you for responding to my inquiry concerning public comments from the City of Pine Island; we appreciate the fact that you will still accept this information from our community. The City Council, City Staff, and the EDA Board have since had the opportunity to review and approve the attached letter being submitted for public comment as part of the Federal Review Process. In addition to the letter, a .pdf file of the City's Future Land Use Planning Map and a Resolution passed by the City Council in January '09 are attached for clarification. The resolution requested that the CAPX2020 staff strongly consider using a route that follows US Highway 52 in order to avoid future residential and neighborhood commercial areas. I will also submit this information in hard copy via regular mail.

If you have any questions regarding the attached comments or supplemental information, don't hesitate to contact me. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to be a part of the Review Process.

Sincerely,

Karen Doll
Pine Island EDA Director
106 2nd St SW, PO Box 727
Pine Island, MN 55963
Ph: (507) 356-8103

L-011-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

L-011-001

Cell: (507) 273-7623

August 4, 2009

Please submit comments as soon as possible. We are still preparing the scoping report and will incorporate comments received prior to completion.

Sincerely,

Stephanie A. Strength

Environmental Protection Specialist/RD

1400 Independence Ave. SW Room # 2244

Washington, DC 20250-1571

(202) 720-0468

From: Pine Island EDA [mailto:pieda@pitel.net]

Sent: Monday, August 03, 2009 3:01 PM

To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC

Subject: Public Comments

Stephanie,

I believe we met in Wanamingo a few weeks ago; I am the EDA Director for the City of Pine Island. The City intended to submit comments concerning the CAPX2020 Project after the last public scoping meeting in Wanamingo, MN, but I saw today on the CAPX2020 website that the date for public comment was only extended until July 25th. That date did not allow time for our EDA Board and the City Council to meet and formally take action on comments we have prepared. Is it too late or is still possible to submit comments for the Federal Review Process? Please advise.

Thank you,

Karen Doll

Pine Island EDA Director

106 2nd St SW, PO Box 727

Pine Island, MN 55963

Ph: (507) 356-8103

Cell: (507) 273-7623



City of Pine Island

250 South Main Street
P.O. Box 1000 • Pine Island, Minnesota 55963
Telephone 507-356-4591
Fax 507-356-8230

August 7, 2009

Stephanie A. Strength
USDA, Rural Utilities Service
1400 Independence Ave SW, Mail Stop 1571
Washington, DC 20250-1571

Dear Ms. Strength:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the recent CAPX 2020 project for the Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse Minnesota 345 KV Transmission Project. We appreciate the opportunity to be a part of the Federal Review Process resulting from the recent Scoping meetings in our region.

The City of Pine Island and the Pine Island Economic Development authority are supportive of the CAPX2020 project and the need for additional capacity to transmit power to our region. We are pleased that future energy needs for this area are being planned now in order to assure a consistent supply for years to come. We are writing to this letter to express two general comments/concerns about the proposed routes in and around the Pine Island area.

L-011-002

- 1) We understand there are two 345 kV routes currently under consideration that would head east between Pine Island and Zumbrota. The City prefers that the transmission route remain as far north as possible due to future land use plans adopted by the City in a 2005 Comprehensive Plan which projects residential development in the area immediately north of Pine Island. (Please refer to the City's attached land use map.) The northern route that is proposed would create less conflict with future residential development because it would be located in a less densely populated area.

L-011-003

- 2) We also understand there are two proposed routes for a 161 kV transmission line traveling south through Pine Island via the west or east sides of the City. We believe the eastern route would provide the best option for our community because it utilizes Highway 52 which currently serves as a major commercial corridor in the area and because it would have the least impact on future residential development.

Thank you for taking these comments/recommendations under review. We appreciate the opportunity to submit this information into the review process.

Sincerely,

Pine Island EDA Executive Director

Enclosures

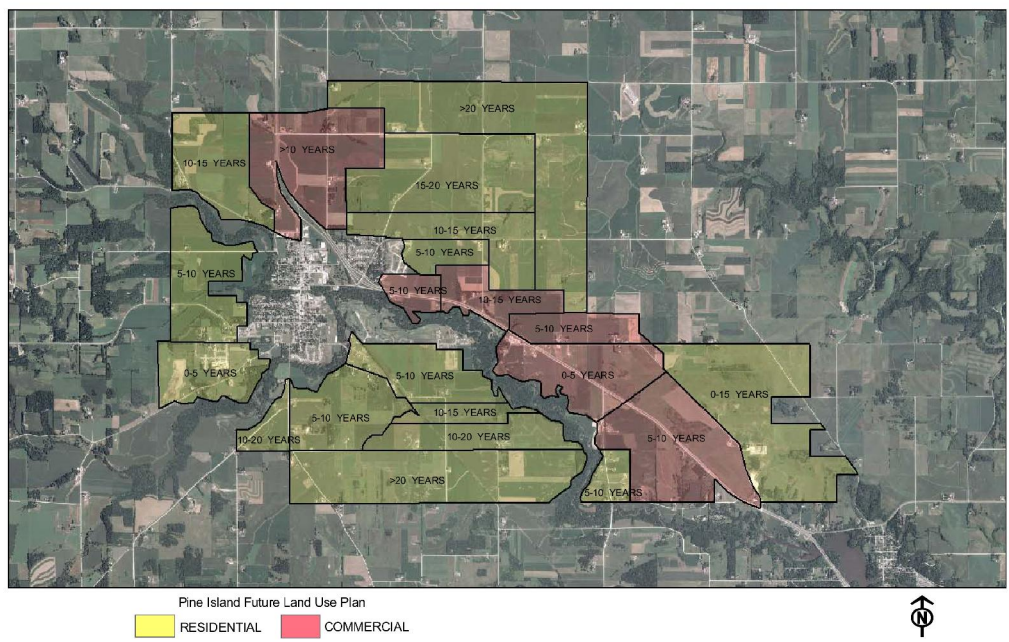
cc Abraham Algadi, City Administrator

L-011-002

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

L-011-003

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.



City of Pine Island
250 S. Main Street
Resolution No. 09-003

Being a resolution to provide recommendation to CAPX2020 for routing of planned high voltage power lines within the Pine Island area.

Whereas; The City of Pine Island recognizes the need for a reliable power supply to help promote an orderly future growth; and

Whereas; The City of Pine Island would like to work with CAPX2020 project staff to guide the route selection process and coordinate the placement of such routes with existing and future land uses within and around Pine Island, and

Whereas; The City Council also recognizes the need for multiple routes to be selected through the Pine Island area originating from the planned sub-station in the area between Pine Island and Zumbrota, and

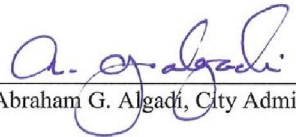
Whereas; The City of Pine Island official Pine Island Comprehensive plan and future land use map identified existing and future urbanizing areas in and around the City, and

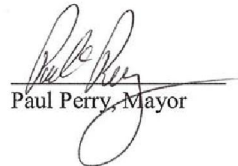
Whereas; The adopted land use plan could provide important information about the Pine Island area future growth and land use types/pattern, and

Whereas; A copy of the adopted plan is included in attached Exhibit "A", and

L-011-004 Therefore; be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Pine Island, that CAPX2020 staff and project manager(s) strongly consider routing the proposed (routes) in manner that follows U.S. Highway right of Way, and away from future residential and neighborhood commercial areas.

Adopted this 20th day of January 2009


Abraham G. Algadi, City Administrator


Paul Perry, Mayor

L-011-004

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

8/6/2009